

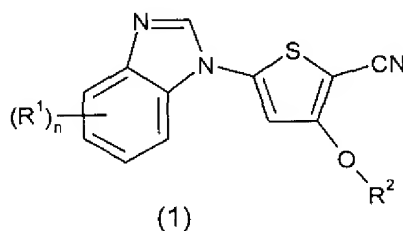
Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

What is claimed is:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A compound of Formula (I):



wherein

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Each R¹ which may be the same or different, independently represents H, halogen or a group (X)_a(Y)_bZ;

X represents -O- or -CONH-;

a is 0 or 1;

Y represents -C₁₋₆ alkylene-;

b is 0 or 1;

Z represents hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxyalkyl, or C₁₋₆ haloalkoxyalkyl;

R² represents a group -(X¹)_c(Y¹)_dZ¹;

wherein X¹ represents -C₁₋₁₂ alkylene-;

c is 0 or 1;

Y¹ represents -O-;

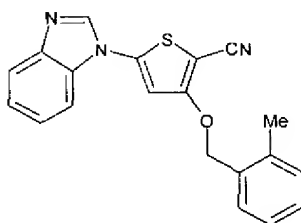
d is 0 or 1;

Z^1 represents H, aryl or heteroaryl each of which contains 5 - 14 ring atoms, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl, C_{5-7} cycloalkyl, C_{5-7} cycloalkenyl, (each of which aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, halogen, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} haloalkoxy, SO_2R^3 , or C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl); and

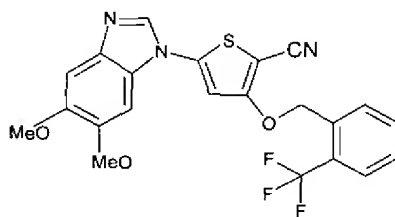
R^3 represents H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates or physiologically functional derivatives thereof with the proviso that the compound is not:

5-(1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-((2-methylphenyl)oxy)thiophene-2-carbonitrile



or 5-(5,6-bismethoxy-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-((2-trifluoromethyl)phenyl)oxy}thiophene-2-carbonitrile



±

Claim 2 (Original): A compound according to claim 1 wherein n is 1 or 2.

Claim 3 (Original): A compound according to claim 1 wherein n is 2.

Claim 4 (Original): A compound according to claim 3 wherein one R¹ is –OCH₃.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A compound according to claim 3 wherein each ~~both~~-R¹ ~~is~~ are –OCH₃.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A compound according to claim 3 ~~6~~ wherein each R¹ is –OCH₃ on position 5 and 6 of the ring.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A compound according to claim 1 ~~claims 1-7~~ wherein c is 1.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A compound according to claim 1 ~~claims 1-7~~ wherein X¹ is C₁₋₆alkenyl.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A compound according to claim 1 ~~claims 1-8~~ wherein Z¹ is aryl or heteroaryl each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CF₃, CH₂OH, SO₂CH₃, CH₃, OCH₃.

Claim 10 (Original): A compound according to claim 1, selected from:

5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([4-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl]methyl)oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([(1R)-1-(2-chlorophenyl)ethyl]oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-(1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([(1-methyl-1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-6-yl)methyl]oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-(6-(methyloxy)-5-([2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]oxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-([2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl)oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([(2,5-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([2-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]methyl)oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-(5-chloro-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([(2,6-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5-[(3-hydroxypropyl)oxy]-6-(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl)oxy)-2-thiophene-carbonitrile

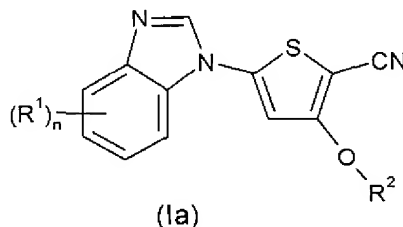
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[3-bromo-4-pyridinyl)methyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
1-[5-cyano-4-{{2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl}methyl}oxy]-2-thienyl]- <i>N</i> -[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazole-5-carboxamide
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(1 <i>R</i>)-1-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(2-phenylethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[2-[(trifluoromethyl)oxy]phenyl]methyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[2-(methyloxy)phenyl]methyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[2-(2-oxo-1-pyrrolidinyl)ethyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(tetrahydro-2-furanylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(tetrahydro-2 <i>H</i> -pyran-2-ylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[2-(phenyloxy)ethyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[1 <i>S</i>)-1-(2-chlorophenyl)butyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(3-thienylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(2-thienylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(1 <i>R</i>)-1-methylpropyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile

or a salt, solvate, or physiologically functional derivative thereof.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition, comprising: a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 or 2~~, or a salt, solvate, or a physiologically functional derivative thereof and one or more of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents and excipients.

Claim 12 (Cancelled):

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method of treating a disorder in a mammal, said disorder being mediated by at least one of inappropriate IKK3 activity, comprising: administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Formula (Ia)



wherein

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Each R^1 which may be the same or different, independently represents H, halogen or a group $(X)_a(Y)_bZ$;

X represents $-O-$ or $-CONH-$;

a is 0 or 1;

Y represents $-C_{1-6}$ alkylene-;

b is 0 or 1;

Z represents hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl, C_{1-6} alkoxyalkyl, or C_{1-6} haloalkoxyalkyl;

R^2 represents a group $-(X^1)_c(Y^1)_dZ^1$;

wherein X^1 represents $-C_{1-6}$ alkylene-;

c is 0 or 1;

Y^1 represents $-O-$;

d is 0 or 1;

Z^1 represents H, aryl or heteroaryl each of which contains 5 - 14 ring members, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl, C_{5-7} cycloalkyl, C_{5-7} cycloalkenyl (each of which aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, halogen, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} haloalkoxy, SO_2R^3 , or C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl) ; and

R^3 represents H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates or physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 13 wherein the disorder mediated by inappropriate IKK3 activity is inflammatory bowel disease, asthma and COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease); osteoarthritis, osteoporosis and fibrotic diseases; dermatosis, including psoriasis, atopic dermatitis and ultraviolet radiation (UV)-induced skin damage; autoimmune diseases including systemic lupus erythematosus, multiple sclerosis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, tissue and organ rejection, Alzheimer's disease, stroke, atherosclerosis, restenosis, diabetes, glomerulonephritis, cancer, including Hodgkins disease, cachexia, inflammation associated with infection and certain viral infections, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), adult respiratory distress syndrome, and Ataxia Telangiectasia.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 13 or 14 wherein the compound of Formula (Ia) is selected from:

5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([4-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl]methyl)oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([(1R)-1-(2-chlorophenyl)ethyl]oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-(1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-([(2-methylphenyl)methyl]oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-(1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([(1-methyl-1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-6-yl)methyl]oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-(6-(methyloxy)-5-[[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]oxy]-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-([2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl)oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([(2,5-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl)oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([2-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]methyl)oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-(5-chloro-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([(2,6-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5-[(3-hydroxypropyl)oxy]-6-(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl)oxy)-2-thiophene-carbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([(3-bromo-4-pyridinyl)methyl]oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile

5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
1-[5-cyano-4-({[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl}oxy)-2-thienyl]- <i>N</i> -[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazole-5-carboxamide
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-({(1 <i>R</i>)-1-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl}oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(2-phenylethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-({[2-[(trifluoromethyl)oxy]phenyl]methyl}oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-({[2-(methyloxy)phenyl]methyl}oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[2-(2-oxo-1-pyrrolidiny)ethyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(tetrahydro-2-furanylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(tetrahydro-2 <i>H</i> -pyran-2-ylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[2-(phenyloxy)ethyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[1 <i>S</i>]-1-(2-chlorophenyl)butyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(3-thienylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(2-thienylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-({(1 <i>R</i>)-1-methylpropyl}oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile

or a salt, solvate or physiologically functional derivative thereof.

Claims 16 – 18 (Cancelled):